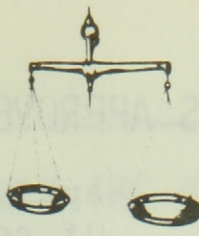


Quid Novi



Vol. II No. 1

Vol. 2 Nos. 5, 15
not available

SEPTEMBER 9, 1981

Senate Okays Curriculum

Curriculum changes approved by Faculty Council last March were passed by the Academic Policy Committee of the McGill Senate (APC) on June 18.

The changes concern degree requirements for both the B.C.L. and LL.B. Faculty Council decided at its May 5 meeting on transitional measures which make the new requirements apply to all first year students, all students in B.C.L. IV and LL.B. IV, and students in the joint program only so far as their second degree is concerned.

The curriculum reform has been described as a rationalization of the national program; but any attempt to formulate further generalizations reveals the complexity of the degree programs offered at the Law Faculty.

other summer news

Under the energetic leadership of President Campbell Stuart the L.U.S. executive -- including Campbell, V.P.-Common Joanie Vance, V.P.-Civil Marek Nitoslowski, Treasurer Jacques Nadeau and Secretary Dan Barker -- has accomplished a good deal in the past few months.

The actual changes are detailed in a document entitled "Changes in Degree Requirements B.C.L. & LL.B. Effective 1981-1982" which was included in the Faculty's August mailing to students.

L.U.S. President Campbell Stuart, whose duties have required him to come to grips with the subtleties of the new requirements was reluctant to generalize on a matter so complicated. However, he did point out some results of the changes which are likely to be of interest to students. First, if one is planning to complete one degree and then proceed to the second, it no longer matters in which order they are taken. Previously, someone who took the LL.B. degree after the B.C.L. would find himself faced with a greater
(Continued page 2)

ATTENDED MEETINGS

Early last May while most of us were drinking beer, heading for the beach, starting jobs -- in short each in his way trying to forget the eight month ordeal just survived, Campbell and his confreres were sitting in Faculty Council hammering out the transitional measures so the new curriculum proposals could take effect this year. If that weren't enough, APC then under V.P.-Academic Pedersen attempted to renege on a promise to consider the new proposals
(Continued page 5)

CURRICULUM CHANGES APPROVED BY SENATE

(Continued from page 1)

number of obligatory common law courses than the person who took the LL.B. first.

Secondly, a new category of courses has been created, called semi-obligatory. Previously there were only obligatory courses, which had to be taken, and optional courses which were used to build up credit totals. Semi-obligatory courses are groupings of courses from which a certain number of credits must be earned. Thus the student has to take courses within the group; but is free to choose which courses within the group he takes.

In effect, B.C.L. students have been given more choice, LL.B. slightly less. This is because in B.C.L., a number of courses which were obligatory became semi-obligatory; whereas the semi-obligatory courses for LL.B. were previously optional. However, it is important to note, in the first place, that there have always been fewer obligatory requirements for LL.B. than for B.C.L., and, second, that the vast majority of LL.B. students would have voluntarily fulfilled the tighter requirements anyway.

A third effect of the changes concerns those who take only one degree. The main beneficiaries are LL.B. students who will no longer need as many Civil law credits as previously. Also, they will no longer be required to take Property II.

However, the fourth point that Stuart made was that under the transitional measures worked out in the spring, LL.B. II and III students will be unable to benefit from the relaxed requirements for LL.B. This is because the new requirements do not apply to the degree program for which students first registered; but they will

apply to the second degree, if any. Of course first year students come under the new regime.

Associate Dean MacDonald is interested in the changes both from an administrative point of view (see notice p. 8) and from a policy standpoint, being the new chairman of the Curriculum Committee. He sees the changes as steps taken to deal with a web of problems involved with attempting to be a "national" law school. There is a real feeling that after requiring students to take compulsory courses in each of their first three years, it is not right that they be faced with a large slate of obligatory courses in fourth year. Thus there is a tendency to greater flexibility to allow these students to pursue subjects of interest to them.

Another problem MacDonald perceives is that third year students find themselves still taking first year courses, when they should perhaps be devoting their time to advanced courses.

There is growing pressure to come to terms with the question of what kind of law school is McGill. If McGill is truly a national law school, is it perhaps not unreasonable to require LL.B. students, who are not planning to continue in the National Program, to take a substantial number of Civil law courses? By reducing the Civil law component of the LL.B., the McGill LL.B. more closely approximates the LL.B. available at any common law school in Canada. MacDonald questions whether this is the direction in which we want to go, but also is concerned that our Faculty calendar may mislead potential LL.B. students by giving the impression that is what we are offering. MacDonald would probably prefer to retain the uniqueness

(Continued at page 4)

L.U.S.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

CAMPBELL STUART

To returning students and especially students new to the Faculty, I would like to extend a warm welcome. In fact, to ease you into the new year I believe that everyone with a budget for such things has scheduled events for amusement over the next couple of weeks. I strongly advise you to drink lots of beer and keep loose.

Today is important for another reason and if I may I will bend your ear about Quid Novi itself. In appearance and reality it is independent of the L.U.S. executive. It operates out of its own office and controls its own affairs entirely. Its mode of continuity will no longer be yearly appointments by the executive but rather an internal selection procedure that ensures that the subsequent year's editors will come from the pool of the previous year's contributors. These changes will go a long way towards solving problems endemic to our community. Firstly, its stable structure will improve our lamentably poor collective memory span past one or two years. Secondly, its editorial identity will allow it to focus on issues instead of the parties in any particular debate. Thirdly, it should become a true forum for discussion to which student and staff alike can contribute. Without some such mechanism we are doomed to alternate between anger and indifference. Finally, as a true newspaper it should inject a dose of perspective by dealing with a broad range of issues. This may seem a tall order but I do not think it is overly ambitious given one condition: It is a community newspaper and should be treated as such by all members thereof. There is room for wisdom from all quarters.

One final word on the L.U.S. It is your society and we in the executive would like you to treat it that way. The office (Room 5) will be open most of the time from 9 to 5 so drop in any time you have a problem or want to chat. Generally speaking, ours is a "can-do" attitude, so don't let anything stew longer than it takes to ask for help. We will also be consulting you in general assemblies. Decisions will be made during these meetings which will greatly affect you here so please try to come. The first one is on Thursday, September 17 at 1:00 p.m. in the Moot Court and will deal with, among other things, the fate of the Board of Student Advisors, the L.U.S. constitution, and the disclosure of information to law firms. Check our notice board for timetables and agendas.

Finally I would like to extend a thank-you to those who worked very hard over the summer: To students for preparing events and services, and to staff for humanizing administrative procedures.

SECOND HAND BOOKS

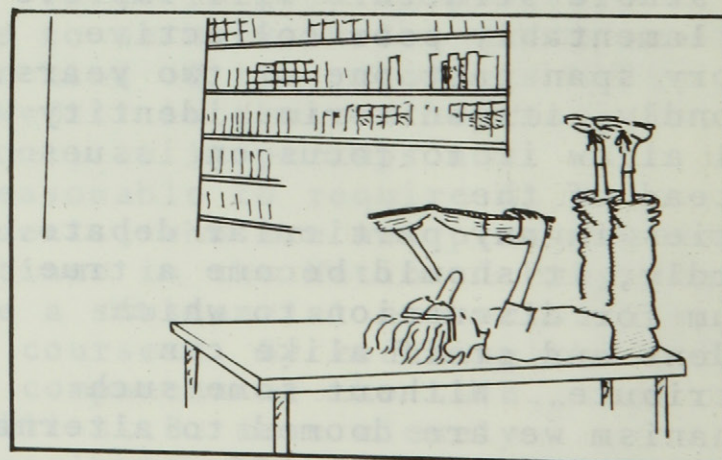
There will NOT be a second hand bookstore this year. However, if someone is interested in organizing some sort of book exchange for next week contact Campbell Stuart at the LUS office. Otherwise, recommended spots to advertise for purchase and sale of used books is on and around notice boards 7 and 11 on the south wall in the basement.

CURRICULUM CHANGE

(Continued from page 2)

of the McGill program, and would seek ways to make the National Program more attractive to students from common law provinces.

A very difficult problem arises when one tries to blend a common law with a Civil law program, as at McGill -- what MacDonald terms the "optional vs. compulsory course issue." Traditionally Civil law schools have a large obligatory component -- essentially the Civil Code and the Code of Civil Procedure -- whereas common law schools have few required courses. It was an attempt to blend these very different programs, with their traditions intact, in a single curriculum that led to the amazing complexity of McGill's program. From this perspective, the recent changes -- relaxing the B.C.L. requirements somewhat while tightening LL.B. slightly -- reflect a compromise of both traditions and, perhaps, a step toward a truly national, and maybe rational, National Program.

THE VIEW FROM THE BOTTOM

Two people do not a newspaper make.

This (evidently) is this year's first issue of what we hope will be a weekly newspaper in this Faculty. We made an effort to put out an issue for the first week to give everyone an indication of our commitment to our goal. Nevertheless, it is quite apparent that more people will be needed if the endeavour is to be successful. Much goes on in this Faculty but, unfortunately most of it also goes unnoticed. Whatever the cause of this "information gap" we feel that Quid Novi is the proper channel through which information can flow in this faculty.

Unfortunately the news does not report itself and we will need your help to bring what goes on to the attention of the majority who for one reason or another are not directly involved with all the developments that take place. In the next few weeks we hope to recruit a staff who will help us put together this publication. Hopefully enough people will come forward so that the work load on each of us is kept at a minimum. After all, we would like to squeeze in some squash, hockey, etc., (not to mention law).

As you may have gathered by now I can't write, so that the first priority is reporters: but we'll need help in many other areas too.

Our office is right in the heart of downtown Old Chancellor Day Hall so come down and see us soon.

Make sure you attend all the parties (especially first years).

See you next week.

Ron

Quid Novi is published by
the students of McGill
University Faculty of Law

Editors: Ron Lucciola
Peter Dauphinee

SUMMER NEWS ...

(Continued from page 1)
and present them to Senate to become effective this year. However, deft behind-the-scenes maneuvering by Campbell, and a resolute Dean Brierley foiled Pedersen's plan to conceal a scheduled but hitherto agendaless meeting. The missing meeting was discovered just in time, an agenda created, committee members summoned from summer retreat -- and the proposals passed.

CAFETERIA IMPROVED ... AGAIN?

If you can find any discernable improvement in our cafeteria this year, you can thank V.P.-Common Joanie Vance. Otherwise, blame Joanie.

LEGAL CLINIC EXPANDED

Since the study session two years ago, Campbell seems to have made it his personal project to see the white paper which resulted implemented. His latest effort is the extension of the legal clinic course. At present there is only one neighbourhood legal clinic in the city, at Pointe-St. Charles, where students can do legal work in the community for credit. The Pointe-St. Charles clinic can only accept two students per term. Campbell is now corresponding with the director of the government-run legal aid program, which has to a certain extent usurped the function of neighbourhood clinics, to see if a role can be found for McGill law students.

FAILURE RATE STUDIED

Campbell has continued efforts to analyze the failure rate at McGill and to compare it with other schools. The data are in and Dave Toupin and Jamie Cameron are presently comparing the schools that have responded. They expect to report their findings this week.

AN OPEN ADMINISTRATION ?

The present L.U.S. executive was elected at least partly on the promise of a more open L.U.S. cf. Jacques "full-disclosure" Nadeau. Veterans of past years may notice some improvements in this field. Anyone, it seems, who wishes to wander into the L.U.S. office, with \$.50 in his pocket is free to enjoy a beer ... provided, of course, he is prepared subsequently to canvas the law building spreading manifestoes and collecting signatures on petitions. For your information, and viewing pleasure, there is a book in the office entitled L.U.S. Agenda which will tell you what is going on about the school throughout the term. And if your curiosity is not yet satisfied, and you have a bent for L.U.S. history, you are free (if such an invitation to Quid Novi is any indication) to browse through the filing cabinet. (If you find anything there, let us know. - ed.)

EARLY EXAM SCHEDULE

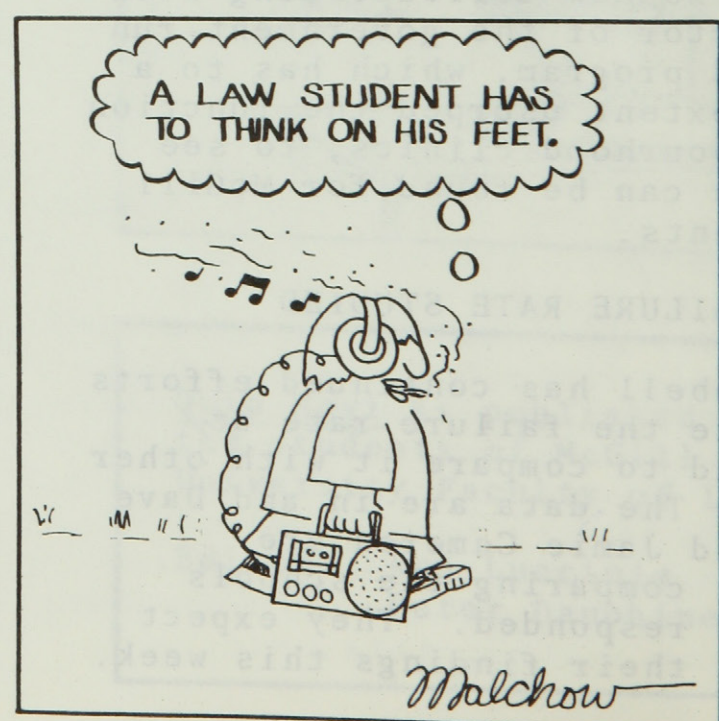
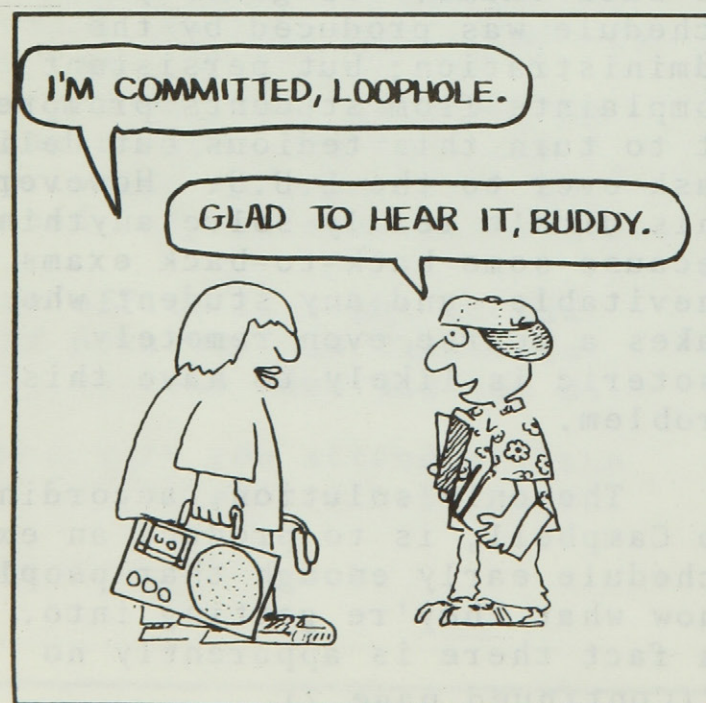
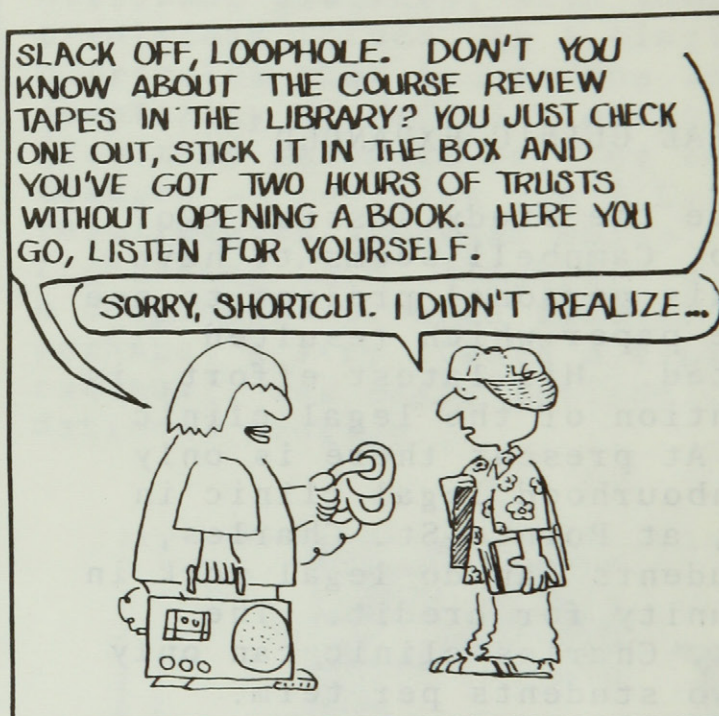
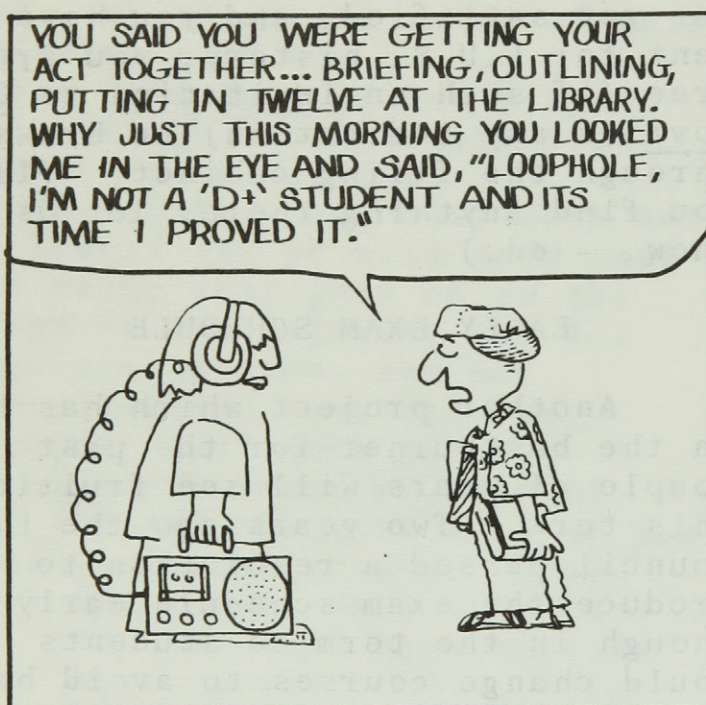
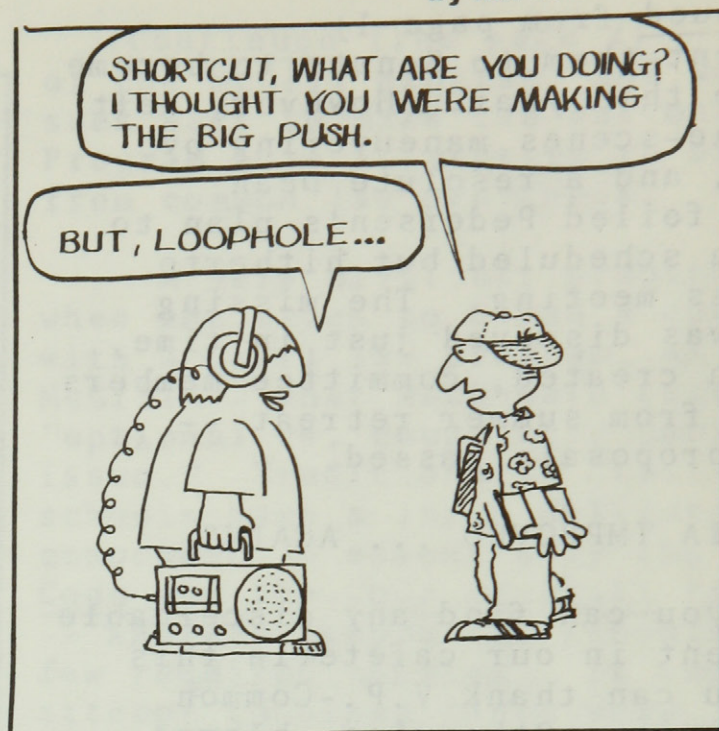
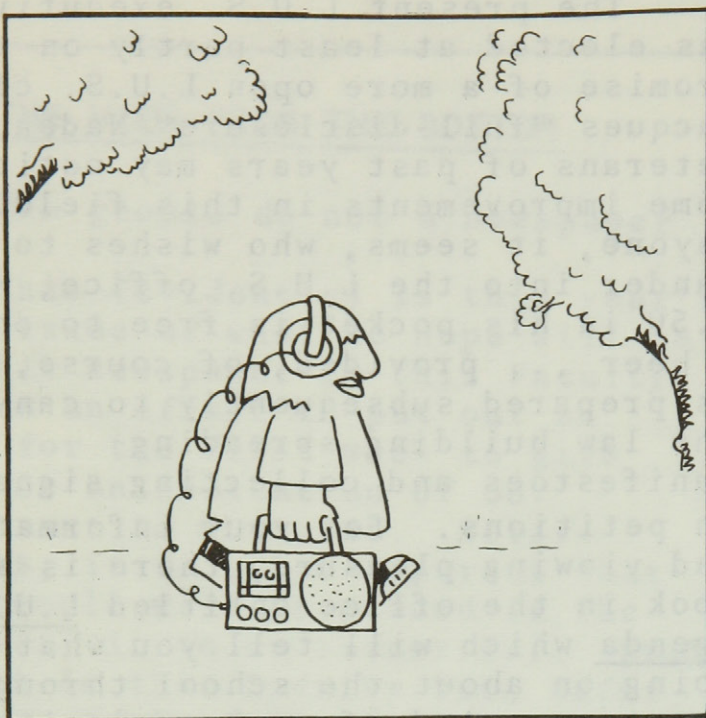
Another project which has been on the backburner for the past couple of years will see fruition this term. Two years ago the L.U.S. Council passed a resolution to produce the exam schedule early enough in the term so students could change courses to avoid back-to-back exams. Originally the schedule was produced by the administration; but persistent complaints from students prompted it to turn this tedious but delicate task over to the L.U.S. However, this didn't really solve anything because some back-to-back exams are inevitable; and any student who takes a course even remotely esoteric is likely to have this problem.

The only solution, according to Campbell, is to produce an exam schedule early enough that people know what they're getting into. In fact there is apparently no

(Continued page 7)

Loophole[©]

by hal malchow



SUMMER NEWS ...

(Continued from page 5)

reason why the exam schedule should not be more or less permanent, so students could plan to take their electives in the year which would result in the most favourable schedule for them. The only reason the schedule for this coming year has not yet been made is that Campbell has been unable to find anyone with the time and, probably, the patience to do it. So late last Saturday night Campbell was burning the midnight oil in the L.U.S. office to get it done. He promises to have it out by Thursday afternoon, so students might want to delay making changes until then.

SPEAKERS PROGRAM

We may or may not have more speakers from outside this year, but at least they will be organized. In previous years there were often problems caused as different groups within the faculty would bring in speakers without any overall plan or schedule. Thus there would be cross-scheduling, not to mention an enormous amount of paper on the walls which would actually inform only the most curious of students. The result, of course, was lower than optimal turnouts.

This year Helena Lamed, representative-at-large on Faculty Council, is trying to turn this amorphous activity into a speakers program. The idea to have a "program" grew out of another idea which has come to pass this year -- setting aside two hours a week during which no classes will be held. These two hours -- Thursday and Friday from one to two o'clock -- are available for any activity of interest to students. Helena has contacted groups within the faculty who normally bring in speakers -- Women in Law and the International Law Society, for example -- and a number of the slots

are filled. She is also trying to coordinate the program with the faculty's speakers program, and in addition is looking for ideas for L.U.S.-sponsored speakers.

Timely information on upcoming events will be posted at strategic locations throughout the Law building, and will be published in Quid Novi. Information on the whole year's events will also be available both in the L.U.S. Agenda and in a calendar currently being created by Robyn Wolfe which will be posted in the cafeteria.

McGILL CAMPUS LEGAL AID CLINIC

General Meeting for Staff applicants to be held in Room 101 at 1:00 p.m. today, Sept. 9/81. Applications will be accepted at that time. Come and join us!

A TOUS LES ETUDIANT(E)S DE DEUXIEME ET DE TROISIEME (*) ANNEE:

Les personnes intéressées à participer à la Revue de droit de McGill sont priées de remettre une copie de leur C.V. à nos bureaux au sous-sol du Old Chancellor Day Hall au plus tard le lundi 21 septembre 1981. Prière d'indiquer votre désir de travailler au niveau de l'administration ou de la rédaction.

Si vous avez quelque question, n'hésitez pas à venir rencontrer un membre du Comité de rédaction ou à nous téléphoner au 845-8824.

* inscrit(e)s au programme national.

BOOKSTORE NEWS

i) Store hours are posted on the door. For the first two weeks we will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thereafter we will be open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 1-2 p.m.

If we get enough requests to change the hours we will do so.

ii) The bookstore will NOT be handling used case books this year. Please use the notice boards.

iii) We need volunteers to help us with the sale of books during the first two weeks. No experience is necessary. Just pick a time slot on the schedule and show up five minutes early. Five people per hour is ideal.

If you help us, you get to come to a free beer and pizza party AND you can buy your own books at the end of your shift.

iv) We would also like to thank once again, and acknowledge the effort and dedication of:

Brian Elkin
Dave Collier
Campbell Stuart
Vince Guida
Ted Over

These people "created" the bookstore. They worked all of the summer of 1980, and during the school year without pay or credits (not even free books). Please make a point of thanking them, since we all have benefited from greatly reduced costs.

v) Suggestion box - Please drop in all criticisms, comments, and advice. ☒

***** COMING EVENTS *****

Wed. Sept. 9th:

* Coffee & Doughnuts
Common Room 12-2 p.m.

Thu. Sept. 10th:

* Faculty Skit
Front Lawn or Common Room
12-2 p.m.

* Associate Dean MacDonald will be explaining the effect of the recent curriculum changes at 4:00 p.m. in the Moot Court. The meeting is primarily for 4th year students however everyone is welcome to attend.

Fri. Sept. 11th:

* Beer & Pizza
Basement 12-2 p.m.

* Softball - Law vs Education
Lower Campus 12-2 p.m.

Mon. Sept. 14th:

* Wine & Cheese Party
Common Room 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Tue. Sept. 15th:

* Beer & Hot Dogs
Front Lawn 1-3 p.m.

To ALL SECOND AND THIRD YEAR (*) STUDENTS:

If you are interested in working on the McGill Law Journal, you are requested to submit a C.V. at our offices in the basement of Old Chancellor Day Hall, by Monday, September 21, 1981. Please indicate whether you are interested in working on the management or editorial board.

Should you have any questions, please stop by our offices and chat with a member of the Senior Board or phone 845-8824.

* returning for a fourth year. ☒